

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. / CHARLES R. DREW MEDICAL CENTER 12021 South Wilmington Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90059 310 / 668-4321

August 11, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ACTIONS BY THE HAB AT ITS AUGUST 10, 2005 SPECIAL MEETING

We are writing to report to you the actions taken by the King/Drew Medical Center Hospital Advisory Board ("the KDMC HAB") at its Special Meeting of August 10, 2005. This Special Meeting was convened for the purposes of completing the HAB deliberations on the recommendation made by the LAC DHS Director/CMO to downsize KDMC as outlined in his report to your Board dated August 5, 2005.

The HAB is concerned about the inconsistent process of including the HAB in the development of proposals, issue analysis, or other decision-making in matters pertinent to the HAB's charge as the governance structure for KDMC.

In particular, two recent items highlight our concern:

1. The Auditor-Controller Report on Navigant Consulting, Inc. to your Board of June 13, 2005
2. The Director's Recommendation to downsize KDMC, report of August 5, 2005

In the former, the HAB was apprised of the audit results after the report had been sent to your Board. Consistent with our charge as an advisory board, the HAB believes that we must provide our best opinions and analysis on such recommendations made by LAC DHS and Navigant to the BOS. In order to do so, the HAB members feel it would be more appropriate that such reports be reviewed by the HAB prior to being submitted to the BOS. In this way, the HAB hopes to provide the BOS with all the necessary information needed to make appropriate decisions on the future of KDMC.

As for the latter item, the report including the recommendation to downsize KDMC was made public on August 4, 2005. However, the full report was not available to HAB members until late in the day August 5, 2005. In addition, the LAC DHS Director did not formally present the recommendation to the HAB until the regular meeting of the HAB on August 8, 2005. Although the HAB Chair, Vice-

Honorable Board of Supervisors
August 11, 2005
Page 2

Chair and KDMC Interim CEO were invited to three KDMC planning meetings by DHS, their participation did not imply an endorsement of the ideas being discussed at these meetings, and much less a formal approval by the HAB to make such recommendations.

Accordingly, upon confirmation of a quorum present including the Chair and the Interim CEO, the HAB took the following actions for your Board's consideration:

It was moved and seconded that:

1. Recommendations regarding any activity that would affect the governance, management, and/or patient service delivery model at King-Drew Medical Center shall be formally submitted to the Hospital Advisory Board (HAB) for its advice prior to submission to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) for action, except where the Director of Health Services finds and declares that failure to take immediate action would place patients and/or employees in harm's way. The Director shall include the HAB's advice and recommendations in his written communications to the BOS.

Motion carried on a 7-0 vote.

It was moved and seconded that:

2. The HAB recognizes that the recommendations submitted by the Director of Health Services regarding the future of King/Drew Medical Center are a response to a directive of the BOS and that a short timeframe for their development was given. Further, the HAB supports the Director and his staff in their efforts to restore King-Drew Medical Center's service delivery programs and the hospital's accreditation. In that regard, we request that the BOS grant the Director and his staff more time to develop and vet his recommendations with the HAB.

Motion carried on a 6-0 vote with one abstention.

It was moved and seconded that:

3. The HAB opposes the Director's recommendations that include the reductions of in-patient service delivery at KDMC as proposed in his report to the Board of Supervisors on August 5, 2005.

Motion carried on a 6-1 vote.

We have been instructed by the members of the HAB to convey the context and content of these actions and to request that your Board approve a motion to establish the process for a direct reporting relationship of the HAB to your Board.

Second, the HAB requests that the Director be given additional time to complete the gathering of data to support his recommendations and to confirm the underlying assumptions about the capacity of other county facilities and/or private sector facilities to assume the care of patients (in the immediate and long-term future) displaced from KDMC as a result of service reductions at the KDMC.

Honorable Board of Supervisors
August 11, 2005
Page 3

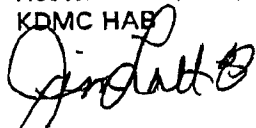
Lastly, the HAB opposes the Director's August 5, 2005 recommendations for service reductions at KDMC because they threaten the stability of the institution at a critical time and because the long-term impact of any reduction in services on the community of South Los Angeles has not been adequately studied. Although the HAB recognizes the potential need for future reductions in services at KDMC, we oppose the specific recommendations made in the Director's August 5, 2005 report.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

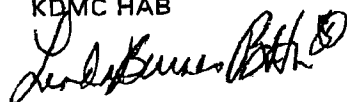
Sincerely,



Hector Flores, MD, Chair
KDMC HAB



Jim Lott, Vice-Chair
KDMC HAB



Linda Burnes Bolton, DrPH, RN, Secretary
KDMC HAB

HF:JL:LBB:ah

c: KDMC HAB Members